

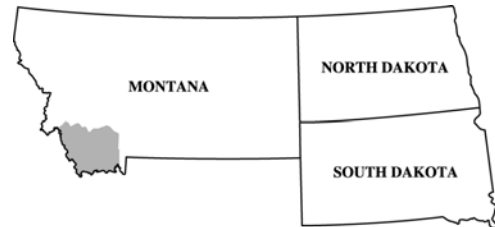


July 2004

DILLON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

- The Dillon Field Office in southwestern Montana released the Draft Dillon RMP/EIS in April 2004. Once approved, this plan will replace the management framework plan (MFP) approved in 1979.
- The Draft RMP/EIS contains four alternatives. It identifies land use allocations and provides guidance for about 902,000 surface acres and 1.3 million acres of federal mineral estate.
- The public comment period ended July 12, 2004. Comments will be used to review alternatives and make adjustments in order to release a Proposed RMP/Final EIS in the spring of 2005 and a Record of Decision by September 2005.



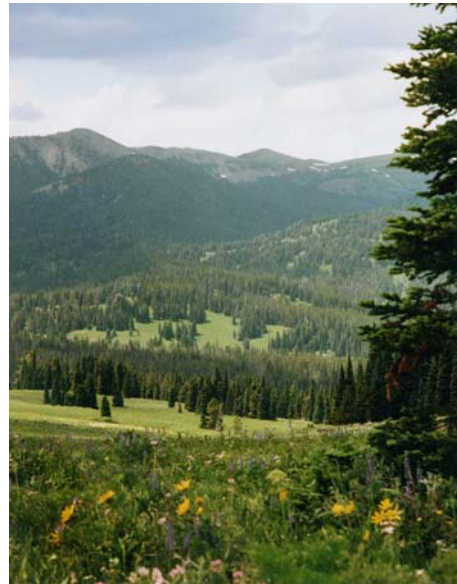
HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Statutory, regulatory, policy and socioeconomic changes have occurred since the completion of the Dillon MFP in 1979.
- Issues related to threatened, endangered and sensitive species; changes in intensity of uses on public lands; vegetation management and fuels reduction; travel management; special management designations; and the general increasing demand for public lands and resources have emerged in the planning area.
- As Montana's top planning priority, funding became available in 2001 to begin the RMP process. Early on, Beaverhead County joined the effort as a cooperating agency; Madison County committed to the process in late 2002.
- Scoping was conducted in FY 2001 and into FY 2002; this included several open house meetings throughout the planning area.
- An information fair was held in the spring of 2002 to share information about the ongoing planning process and data to be used in the RMP.
- The Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) convened three subgroups between March and September of 2002 to assist BLM with evaluations of potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Wild and Scenic Rivers, and travel management options.
- Beaverhead and Madison counties along with the Montana Consensus Council hosted nine Focus Question Workshops throughout February 2003 to collect recommendations to assist the RMP planning team with alternative development.



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

- The comment period for the Draft Dillon RMP/EIS closed July 12, 2004. The planning team will review and analyze the comments received and make adjustments to alternatives and other parts of the document as warranted. A Proposed RMP and Final EIS will be developed and released in April 2005, followed by a 30-day protest period and the Governor's Consistency Review. A Record of Decision and Approved Plan is scheduled for release in September 2005.



WHO ELSE IS CONCERNED?

- The Dillon RMP was developed with unprecedented public involvement measures. Initially, the Montana Consensus Council assisted BLM in developing public participation strategies based on suggestions made by the public. The MCC also assisted the Western Montana RAC in convening subgroups to work on ACEC nominations, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and travel management.
- Beaverhead and Madison Counties served as formal cooperating agencies in the planning process, guided by memoranda of understanding. The Western Montana RAC has been extensively involved in development and review of the Draft RMP/EIS.
- Coordination has continued throughout the process with federal and state agencies, including, but not limited to, the Agricultural Research Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Tribal consultation has been ongoing with the Confederated Kootenai and Salish Tribes of the Flathead Reservation and the Shoshone-Bannock at Fort Hall, Idaho.
- Other interests include:
 - several national and state-level conservation and environmental organizations;
 - state and local officials, especially at the county level;
 - the local ranching and agricultural community;
 - recreationists, especially hunters;
 - wilderness and wildlife advocates;
 - users in the oil and gas, utility, mining and timber industries;
 - other state and federal management agencies.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Renee Johnson, RMP Project Manager, at (406) 683-8016; call our toll-free number at 1-877-521-2889; or go to www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp/index.html.